

May 3, 2002

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary  
Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110

**RE: D.T.E. 02-12;- NSTAR Gas Company Load Forecast and Resource Plan**

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Enclosed for filing please find the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources' (DOER) Information Requests in the above action.

If you have any questions or need additional information please feel free to contact me at (617) 727-4732 x-126.

Sincerely,

Carol R. Wasserman

Enclosures

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
NSTAR Gas Company )  
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**DTE 02-12**

**DIVISION OF ENERGY RESOURCES FIRST SET OF  
INFORMATION REQUESTS**

Pursuant to 220 CMR 1.06(6)(c), the Division of Energy Resources (DOER) hereby submits the following information requests to the Bay State Gas Company ("Company") regarding the above referenced proceeding.

**Instructions**

For the purpose of the DOER information requests any reference to the "Company" or "NSTAR" shall mean the NSTAR Gas Company and any reference to the "Plan" shall mean the Load Forecast and Resource Plan dated February 4, 2002..

In responding to the information requests, DOER requests that the Company provide complete and detailed responses to all questions. DOER also requests that the Company provide all relevant documentation<sup>1</sup> required to support/substantiate the responses as soon as practicable, but in no case later than the deadline for discovery responses mandated in the procedural schedule for this proceeding.

Please provide each response on a separate page with the following:

- 1) a reference to the DTE docket number;
- 2) a recitation of the information request to which the Company's answer responds (including the information request identification/reference number – e.g. DOER 1-1), and;
- 3) The identification and business title and address of the person responsible for the response to each information request.

In order to expedite the review of the responses please provide the responses as they are completed. Please do not wait for the completion of all responses.

DOER also requests that the Company provide supplemental responses to the DOER first set of information requests contained herein if the Company develops or obtains

<sup>1</sup> The term "relevant documentation" includes, but is not limited to: correspondence, graphs, charts, notes, records, reports, data, calculations, estimates and assumptions (and supporting data from which estimates and assumptions were drawn) or any other information source/document in whatever manner maintained or compiled, including mainframe or magnetic media, that is related answers provided in response to the DOER information requests.

additional information within the scope of said information requests subsequent to the provision of the initial response and prior to the close of the record in DTE 02-12.

If any of the DOER information requests are ambiguous or need clarification in any way, please contact Carol R. Wasserman, Division of Energy Resources, (617) 727-4732 ext. 126.

### **INFORMATION REQUESTS**

**DOER 1-1:** With respect to all contracts identified on page 87, Table VI-3, of the Plan, please provide the input NSTAR has received, or anticipates receiving, from marketers, regarding any contract for which notice has been given consistent with the evaluation process described on page 4 of the Plan.

**DOER 1-2:** Please identify all market centers (as that term is defined in FERC Order No. 637) located in New England. For each such center:

- (a) compare the size with that of an average market center located in the production area of the United States; and
- (b) identify which of these centers, if any, are located at NSTAR city-gates.

**DOER 1-3:** With reference to page 24 of the Plan:

- (a) identify all market centers outside of New England from which NSTAR anticipates the purchase of supplemental supply(ies) during a design winter; and
- (b) compare the size of each center so identified with that of an average market center located in the production area of the United States.

**DOER 1-4:** For the “second-coldest day” of a design winter, please explain the Company’s reliance on short-term market area arrangements and provide the temperature (Fahrenheit and Celsius) of such second-coldest day.

**DOER 1-5:** Please provide the temperature (Fahrenheit and Celsius) of the “coldest day” upon which NSTAR expects to rely on short-term market area arrangements.

**DOER 1-6:** Please explain the inverse relationship between Table A.7 of the DRI-WEFA Report; Total Company Natural Gas Aggregate Sales Forecast; which reports an increase in the average number of firm customers each year from 1995 – 2000; and Table G-5 of the MASS EFSC; which reports that the Company’s firm normal heating season sendout requirement has decreased between 1995 – 2000.

**DOER 1-7:** Attachment 6, page 2 of the Plan states that NSTAR has 142,546 Dth/day of transportation capacity on Algonquin. The Attachment also states that some of the capacity upstream of Algonquin goes back to the supply area of the United States and to underground storage fields. On the design day, how much of the gas supplied by NSTAR to firm customers through the Algonquin capacity would come from: (1) long-haul purchases, (2) underground storage, and (3) supply purchased in the market area.

**DOER 1-8:** D.T.E. 98-32-B, page 34, provides as follows:

To ensure the provision of reliable gas service, the Department concludes that, at least during the first three years of the transition period, the LDCs must continue with their obligation to plan for and procure necessary upstream capacity to serve all firm customers. LDCs would recontract for capacity on an as-needed basis, subject to the approval of the Department.

Please provide copies of all new and/or renewed supply and capacity contract(s) entered into by NSTAR, as well as copies of all contract(s) that were changed, modified, or terminated subsequent to the issuance of D.T.E. 98-32-B.

**DOER 1-9:** D.T.E. 98-32-B, at pages 34 and 35, provides as follows:

Although the management of capacity resources may be turned over by some LDCs to the wholesale market through the portfolio auction discussed in section VI. Below, decisions regarding the renewal of expiring contracts must be made by the LDCs, in accordance with their obligation to serve. These renewal decisions

should be preceded by discussions with marketers in order to assure that the LDCs' decisions will take into account customer migration to transportation service, system growth and the trend of marketer participation in the LDCs' markets.

Please provide a description and summary of all discussions convened with marketers, including but not limited to the dates, contracts, identity of marketers invited and identity of marketers who participated, the date(s) of each discussion(s), and copies of meeting minutes, hand-outs, notes, memoranda, and summaries made contemporaneously or following such discussion(s).

**DOER 1-10:** With reference to any and all contract(s) NSTAR bought out on the list provided in response to DOER 1-9, please provide the cost of the buy-out, the number of contract years terminated, all changes, edits, or revisions executed, and any consideration paid or received by NSTAR in order to so change, edit, or revise such contract(s).

**DOER 1-11:** Please describe all of the input data, and range of variables used by the SENDOUT Optimization model for analysis of demand-side alternatives.

**DOER 1-11:** With reference to page 66, Table V-12, of the Plan, please provide the following:

- (a) the basis and confidence for the range of sensitivity, and
- (b) the range of sensitivity accepted by the Department in NSTAR's most recently-approved Plan.

**DOER 1-12:** For the design days and design years of the Forecast Period, please estimate: (1) the load of firm transportation customers exempt from capacity assignment and (2) their respective proportion of total firm load.

**DOER 1-13:** Please identify all withdrawal ratchets in NSTAR's upstream storage contracts, including in such identification the contracts used in the design day analyses.

**DOER 1-14:** Please explain how NSTAR would meet customer demand if the design day occurred late in the season and lower withdrawal ratchets were in effect.

**DOER 1-15:** Are DSM measures included as an alternative that may be selected by the SENDOUT model to determine optimal portfolio mix?

**DOER 1-16:** Please provide the maximum daily level of customer demand the Company is capable of supplying during the winter, including in your response a daily breakdown by capacity type.